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ABSTRACT

This report presents some statistical data on black graduate student applicants. Twenty-five major graduate schools were requested to supply information on the number of identifiable black applicants by field; 11 were able to supply the data. They were: Berkeley, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Minnesota, MIT, Syracuse, University of Wisconsin, and Yale. Applications varied from 346 to 84. Berkeley had 346 applications, 7 schools had between 100 and 200 applicants, and 3 had under 100. Some university departments attracted disproportionately large percentages of the total number of applicants in a particular field: MIT, for example, received 62% of all city planning applications, and Brown University received 45% of the total number in Romance Studies. The humanities and social sciences attracted 85% of the students, while the physical sciences received fewer than 10% of the applications. The total number of applications to the 11 institutions was 1,694 - a very small percentage of the approximately 50,000 Blacks who received undergraduate degrees in 1969-70. Of 546 applications examined for duplication of applicants, 425 represented actual individuals. (AF)

A Study of the Number of Black Graduate Student Applications for Fall, 1970

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Many universities are striving to increase their enrollments of Black graduate students as well as students from other minority groups. Statistical data is useful in planning for such programs and this study attempts to make some estimate of the available pool of Black graduate student applicants.

Information was requested from 25 major graduate schools on the number of identifiable Black applicants by fields, and 11 institutions were able to supply data. This information is presented in Table I. The eleven institutions who supplied the data for Table I are: Berkeley, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Minnesota, MIT, Syracuse, University of Washington, and Yale.

It should be emphasized that the numbers refer to Black applicants that were identifiable. In some cases the schools sent lists that included members of all minority groups.

Another uncertainty arises from the differing organizations of the graduate schools surveyed. In some cases, applicants for Business, Education, or Engineering would not be included since applications to these areas would be handled by different academic units rather than by the centralized graduate schools from which the information was obtained. Another variable was the cut-off date on the reporting of applications. Despite these shortcomings, and given the fact that no other information is available, it was felt that it might be of some value. It is felt that for the reasons noted above, the figures underestimate the actual number of applicants.

The eleven institutions reported numbers of applications varying from 346 to 84. The largest number reported was 346 by Berkeley, followed by Brown

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and Cornell with just under 200. The distribution by number is shown in Table I.

TABLE I

Number of Applicants	No. of Institutions Reporting
Over 300	1
150 - 200	4
100 - 149	3
Under 100	3

Unfortunately only two of the universities reporting information were rurally located (Cornell and Princeton) so that a comparison of this factor could not be made. It should be noted, however, that Cornell did have one of the highest number of applicants.

The number of applicants in various fields is shown in Table II. An interesting observation is that some university departments attracted disproportionately large percentages of the total number of applicants in that field. For example, MIT received 62% of all the City Planning applications, and the other 10 universities accounted for the other 38%. In Romance Studies, Brown University received 45% of the total number in this field. These disproportionate percentages probably reflect strong departmental recruiting programs.

The number and percentages of applicants by general area are shown in Table III. It can be seen that 85% of the students applied to Humanities and Social Science fields, and the Physical Sciences received fewer than 10% of the applications or on the average less than 15 per institution. Engineering applicants were reported by 8 of the 11 institutions for a total of only 20 applications. A recent survey by the American Society for Engineering Education reported the number of engineering degrees awarded to Black undergraduates was about 400 in 1969. The fact that so few applied to the 8 universities probably results from the fact that undergraduate engineers do not need graduate training for a sound financial future and aggressive recruiting by industry.

TABLE II

Field and Number of Completed Applications from Black Students Fall, 1970 - 11 Universities

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	
Agricultural Sciences	4
Biochemistry	2
Botany	2
Genetics	2
Microbiology	8
Nutrition	3
Physiology	7
Zoology	6
Other Biological Sciences	57
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TOTAL	91
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
Engineering	20
Applied Mathematics	2
Astronomy	2
Chemistry	43
Computer Science	2
Geology	5
Mathematics	32
Physics	33
Other Physical Sciences	7
PHYSICAL SCIENCES TOTAL	147
SOCIAL SCIENCES	
Anthropology	30
Asian Studies	3
Business	130
City Planning	87
Child Development	6

SOCIAL SCIENCES, CONTINUED	
Communication Arts	24
Economics	54
Education	126
Government	122
Industrial-Labor Relations	5
Linguistics	10
Psychology	89
Sociology/Social Work	250
Other Social Sciences	42
SOCIAL SCIENCES TOTAL	988
HUMANITIES	
Architecture	9
Art	13
Classics	2
Comparative Literature	8
English	86
German	3
History	194
History of Art	3
Music	5
Philosophy	34
Romance Studies	63
Slavic Studies	4
Theatre Arts	11
Other Humanities	33
HUMANITIES TOTAL	468
GRAND TOTAL	1,694

TABLE III

Applicants by Areas

	Number	%
Biological Sciences	91	5.4
Physical Sciences	147	8.7
Social Sciences	988	57.0
Humanities	468	27.6
	1,694	100.0

Largest Fields

	Number	%
Sociology/Social Work	250	15%
History	194	11%
Business	130	8%
Education	126	7%
Psychology	89	5%
English	86	5%

The total number of applications to the 11 graduate schools was 1,694. My own rough estimate of the total number of Black undergraduates receiving degrees in 1969-1970 is 50,000. The fact that only 1,700 applications were received indicates that a relatively small percentage of the Black college graduates apply to these 11 institutions.

Multiple Applications:

The total number of 1,694 applications in the 11 institutions includes some duplication of applicants. In order to get some information on the decrease in the available applicants because of this factor, the names on the application lists were crosschecked for 8 institutions: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Minnesota, Princeton, University of Washington (Seattle), and Yale. Initial

Multiple Applications, Continued:

inspection showed that there was essentially no duplication of applicants among Minnesota, Washington, and the Eastern institutions so the two former schools were not included in this study.

Six of the larger fields representing a total of 546 applications in the 6 institutions (Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Syracuse, Yale) were examined. The 546 applications represented 425 actual individuals. The breakdown by Field is shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV

	Gross Number Applications	Net Number Individuals
Economics	50	32
English	72	59
Government	83	69
History	151	115
Psychology	75	66
Sociology	115	84
Totals	546	425

Eighty-five percent of the applicants had applied to only a single one of the six institutions. (One enterprising student had applied to all six, was accepted at Harvard and chose Harvard.) The breakdown by multiple application is shown in Table V.

TABLE V

No. Schools Applied	No. of Individuals
6	1
5	1
4	5
3	15
2	56
1	468

There is no comparative data available for non-Black applicants.